



**Memorandum of Agreement
Between
The Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation
And
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**



We at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) share a commitment to recognize and reward environmental leadership in the protection of air, water, and land. To that end, EPA created the National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT) and Tennessee created the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3). These voluntary incentive and recognition initiatives encourage members to focus on issues important to their communities, to take a creative approach to solving local problems, and to employ partnerships and networking with neighborhood citizens to achieve environmental goals.

EPA and TDEC believe we can achieve more by working together than by pursuing our goals independently. Coordinating efforts will lead to increased efficiency and effectiveness. As membership increases, so do our opportunities to encourage members to commit to practices that improve environmental management and ensure the higher level of environmental protection that EPA, TDEC, and the American public all seek.

Through this Memorandum of Agreement, EPA and TDEC commit to creating the best value for our customers; reducing the resource requirements of both the EPA and TDEC staff and the administrative burden of member organizations; creating the greatest amount of incentives, flexibility, and recognition for members; and reinforcing and encouraging continual improvement in environmental performance. While encouraging each initiative to maintain its own identity, EPA and TDEC pledge to:

- Coordinate the application processes of NEPT and TP3 so eligible applicants can apply to both programs simultaneously.
- Work with facilities to identify ways to streamline and facilitate the application process.
- Provide to eligible facilities the assistance necessary to apply and be evaluated expeditiously for acceptance into both NEPT and TP3.
- Develop and coordinate incentives in recognition of their high levels of environmental performance.
- Identify for members a single point of contact in both NEPT and TP3.
- Produce co-marketing tools and conduct joint recruiting and recognition events.
- Identify regulatory innovation opportunities that comply with State and Federal statutes/rules.
- Communicate the measurable environmental results achieved by NEPT and TP3 to the public.

These are just the first of many steps we at EPA and TDEC will take together to enhance our initiatives and reward members for their leadership in environmental protection. We will continue to look for additional ways to align NEPT and TP3 so that members and the environment benefit. Our focus will be to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all partners as we work to align our requirements and develop additional means to deliver recognition, flexibility, and incentives to our environmental leader members. We look forward to developing a detailed work plan that further defines how NEPT and TP3 will work together and anticipate a cleaner future for the American, and particularly the Tennessee environment as a result.

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into this 14th day of March, 2003, and remains in effect unless amended by mutual consent.

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator
EPA Region IV

Betsy L. Child
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